

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-26-09
HB 15

JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

Date: Monday, 01/26/2009
Hearing Room: 137
Hearing Time: 3:00PM
Committee: (H) Education
Number: HB 15
Chair Wanda Grinde

Good afternoon Madame Chair, members of the committee.

My name is Jan Lombardi and I am the Education Policy Advisor for Governor Schweitzer.

Support House Bill 15, the Governor's education bill

Thank you to Rep. Villa for carrying this important legislation

Governor Schweitzer believes that education is for life beginning with early childhood, into K-12, higher education and for our adults seeking new skills to which I have already shared with this committee.

In November, Judge Sherlock recognized that for the past four years the State of Montana has deliberately prioritized school funding and rectified problems identified by the courts. During the 2005 special session, 2007 and 2009 biennia, the state made historic investments to build a quality K-12 education funding base beginning with full-time kindergarten and building a foundation for the future.

In lean fiscal times, Governor Schweitzer believes that our state's investment in K-12 students should continue to be a priority.

HB15, included in the Governor's budget, preserves the previous increases in state funding and provides for a \$48.6 Million increase to the K-12 funding base by:

- Increasing the basic and per-ANB (student) entitlement by 3% each year
- Increasing special education funds by 3% each year which is not reflected in this bill,

These funds for K-12 are included in HB2. Nancy Hall from the Governor's Office of Program Budget and Planning is here with me if you have any technical questions.

On behalf of the Governor, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this important piece of legislation to continue Montana's investment in our children and our future and ask support for HB15.



Established since 1968

Montana Association of School Business Officials

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Dear House Education Committee:

The MT Assoc. of School Business Officials, the finance directors and school clerks, respectfully request your do pass vote on **House Bill 15** by Representative Dan Villa. This bill is one of the funding bills for schools in this next biennium. This bill gives schools about a 3% increase in the base entitlement and the per ANB entitlement which will hopefully keep regular programs going as much as possible.

Rapid passage of this bill will greatly assist schools across the state to proceed with their 2010 budgets and voted levies. If any one of you question what this does in your respective districts, I urge you to call the clerks in those districts. They are out there, ready and willing to assist you with what this bill would do to their district.

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Respectfully yours;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Brannon". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lynda Brannon

"MASBO IS DEDICATED TO TRAINING AND SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUSINESS OPERATIONS OF MONTANA SCHOOLS. THE GOAL IS TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO MANAGE THE BUSINESS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT EDUCATION FOR MONTANA CHILDREN"